gineering products, footwear and footwear components;

(b) whether export of such sub-standard goods have adversely affected the country's reputation.

(c) whether Government have ordered any CBI enquiry in this regard, if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw this exemption;

(e) if so, by when and

(f) if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) Some letter have been received expressing such misgivings. But no specific complaint as such has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, **Sir.**

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Exemption has been granted from compulsory preshipment inspection in the case of those exporters like Star Trading Houses, Trading Houses and Export Houses considering that they have established their credentials in markets abroad.

**GATT talks beld in Brussels**

102. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the GATT talks were recently held in Brussels; and

(b) if so, who represented India in those talks and what is the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS 60S R.S.—8.

PATEL): (a) to (d) Uruguay Round of Ministerial level meeting was held at Brussels on 3—7 December, 1990.

The following persons represented India in this context:—

1. Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Commerce Minister.

2. Shri S. P. Shukla, Commerce Secretary.

3. Shri B. K. Zutshi Ambassador (GATT).

4. Shri A. Hoda, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

5. Shri Lalit Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

6. Shri P. Shankar, Joint Secretary Ministry of Textiles.

7. Shri Atul Chaturvedi, Counsellor (GATT).

8. Shri Ashok Sajjanhar, First Secretary (GATT).

9. Ms. Jayashree Watal, Dy. Secretary, Ministry of Industry.

In addition Dr. S Vedaraman, former Controller-General of Patents, was an Adviser to the delegation. The delegation was also assisted by Shri Arjun Sengupta, Ambassador of India to EEC and other members of the Embassy Staff.

The Ministerial meeting failed to make definitive progress on any of the issues under discussion because of the stalemate in negotiations on trade in agriculture.

**Appointment of a Committee to prohe into pending cases**

103. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 186 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd May, 1990 and state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted to probe into long pending cases in vari-

°us high courts has submitted any report to the Government; if so, when and what were its recommendations; and

(b) whether any action has since been initiated on any of these recommendations; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LA\V AND JUS TICE (DR, SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) and (b) The Report of the Commit tee was received by the Government in September, 1990. These recommenda tions pertain to State Governments, the High Courts, some of the Central Minis tries and the Judiciary itself. These re commendations cover various aspects like jurisdictional and procedural modifica tions |improvements in the judiciary, set ting up of specialised bodies such as tri- bunals|commissions to deal with specific types of cases, fixation of judge strength and appointments of Judges in High Courts, creation of more posts in the Subordinate judiciary and a number of other general recommendations relating to modernisation of office equipment in courts and allocation of more funds to the judiciary improvement in day to day working of the Courts, etc. These recom mendations have been forwarded to all concerned such as State Governments, the Central Ministries and the High Courts.

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**Price, Production and Import of Rubber**

104. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what had been the highest and the lowest price of natural rubber during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) how much rubber had been imported during this period, year-wise;

(c) what had been the production of natural rubber during this period year-wise; and

(d) what steps are being taken to increase the production of natural rubber?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER $_{TN}$ THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL iPURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) The details of pri$_{Ce}$ of natural rubber during the last 3 ycar$_s$ has been as under:—

Price in Rs. per quintal

| Year | Highest | Lowest |
|---|---|---|
| 1987-88 1988-89 | 1880 | 1730 |
| 1989-90 | 1935 | 1740 |
| (b) The details | 2650 | 1835 of |
| rubber during the | import of natural ' last 3 | |
| as under:— | years has been | |

*(In metric tonnes)*

| *Year* | *Quantity* |
|---|---|
| 1987-88 1988-89 | 41,984 51,363 26,549 |
| 1989-90 | of production of natu-last |
| (c) The details | ral 3 years has been |
| rubber during as | (in metric tonnes) |
| under:— | |

| Year | Quantity |
|---|---|
| 1987-88 1988- | 2,35,197 |
| 89 1989-90 | 2.59,172 2,97.300 |

(d) The following measures are now implemented by the Rubber Board to enhance production of natural rubber:—

(1) Granting financial and technical assistance for new planting and replan- *S* ting and replanting under Rubber Planfation Development Scheme.

(2) Producing and distributing high yielding planting materials.

(3) Rendering advisory. extension and training services.

*(4** Encouraging community proces- sing and marketing among small holders.

(5) Undertaking research on cultiva tion, production and processing of rub- ber.

**Production an-i export of cotton**

105. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MP.HTA-Wili the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated production of cotton for this year and the next year;